

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) A side airbag apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:

an airbag having a side aspect including a generally triangular portion disposed toward a front of the airbag when the airbag is deployed, the side aspect being at least partially defined by a posterior edge, a top edge extending forward from the posterior edge, and a bottom edge, the generally triangular portion being defined by the top edge, an axis intersecting the top edge and the bottom edge, and at least a portion of the bottom edge extending forward and upward from the axis toward the top edge, such that the generally triangular portion substantially narrows from the axis to a front of the airbag; and

an inflator cooperating with the airbag to supply gas thereto, thereby facilitating deployment of the airbag.

2. (previously presented) The airbag apparatus of claim 1, wherein the airbag has a generally wedge shaped rear aspect when the airbag is deployed, the generally wedge shaped rear aspect narrowing from an upper region to a lower region.

3. (original) The airbag apparatus of claim 1, wherein the airbag has a generally wedge shaped top aspect when deployed, the generally wedge shaped top aspect narrowing from a posterior region to a front region.

4. (original) The airbag apparatus of claim 1, wherein the airbag comprises a polymeric material of at least 600 denier.

5. (original) The airbag apparatus of claim 1, wherein the inflator is configured to inflate the airbag to at least 25 pounds per square inch.

6. (original) The airbag apparatus of claim 1, wherein the airbag includes a vent hole for venting gas from the airbag.

7. (original) The airbag apparatus of claim 1, wherein the airbag includes a reinforced region for providing additional strength to the airbag.

8. (currently amended) An airbag apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:
an airbag having a generally wedge shaped rear aspect when deployed, the generally wedge shaped rear aspect narrowing from an upper region to a lower region, the airbag having a side aspect including first and second portions, the first portion being generally triangular and substantially narrowing from a back region to a front region, the second portion being contiguous with the first portion and including at least one mounting hole; and
an inflator configured for attachment to the airbag at the at least one mounting hole, and cooperating with the airbag to supply gas thereto, thereby facilitating deployment of the airbag.

9. (original) The airbag apparatus of claim 8, wherein the airbag has a generally wedge shaped top aspect when deployed, the generally wedge shaped top aspect narrowing from a posterior region to the front region.

10. (original) The airbag apparatus of claim 8, wherein the airbag comprises a polymeric material of at least 600 denier.

11. (original) The airbag apparatus of claim 8, wherein the inflator is configured to inflate the airbag to at least 25 pounds per square inch.

12. (original) The airbag apparatus of claim 8, wherein the airbag includes a vent hole for venting gas from the airbag.

13. (currently amended) A vehicle seat including a side airbag apparatus, the airbag apparatus comprising:

an airbag having a generally wedge shaped rear aspect when deployed, the generally wedge shaped rear aspect narrowing from an upper region to a lower region, the airbag further having a side aspect ~~including first and second portions, the first portion being generally triangular and narrowing from a back region to a front region, the second portion being contiguous with the first portion~~ at least partially defined by a posterior edge, a top edge extending forward from the posterior edge, and a bottom edge, the generally triangular portion being defined by the top edge, an axis intersecting the top edge and the bottom edge, and at least a portion of the bottom edge extending forward and upward from the axis toward the top edge, such that the generally triangular portion substantially narrows from the axis to a front of the airbag; and

an inflator mounted on a portion of the seat and cooperating with the airbag to supply gas thereto, thereby facilitating deployment of the airbag.

Claims 14-15 (canceled)

16. (original) The vehicle seat of claim 13, wherein the airbag comprises a polymeric material of at least 600 denier.

17. (original) The vehicle seat of claim 13, wherein the inflator is configured to inflate the airbag to at least 25 pounds per square inch.

18. (original) The vehicle seat of claim 13, wherein the airbag includes a vent hole for venting gas from the airbag.

19. (original) The vehicle seat of claim 13, wherein the airbag has a generally wedge shaped top aspect when deployed, the generally wedge shaped top aspect narrowing from a posterior region to a front region.

20. (original) The vehicle seat of claim 19, including a longitudinal seat axis, wherein the top aspect of the deployed airbag defines an airbag axis, and the inflator is

mounted on a portion of the seat such that the airbag axis forms an angle of less than 30° with the longitudinal seat axis.

21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The airbag apparatus of claim 1, wherein the portion of the bottom edge extending forward and upward is connected to the top edge by a radiused corner.

23. (previously presented) The airbag apparatus of claim 1, wherein the axis is disposed forward of the posterior edge.